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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/900,426	07/06/2001	Andrew Daiber	NUFO002	4971

7590

02/13/2003

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EXAMINER

VY, HUNG T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/900,426

Applicant(s)

DAIBER ET AL.

Examiner

Hung T Vy

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/26/2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


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Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the communications dated 11/26/2002, claims 1-30 are pending in this application as a result of the cancellation of claim 22.

Acknowledges

2. Receipt is acknowledged of the following items from the Applicant.
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on 11/25/2002 and made of record as Paper No. 6.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to for the following reason:

The specification has been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of possible minor errors. However, the applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-21 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the phrase "monitoring voltage across said gain region" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear. The claim fails to recite the step to measure voltage across gain region. How does the device monitor the voltage across gain region?

Regarding claim 5, the phrase "determining optical losses associated with said cavity" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear how monitoring voltage determines optical losses associated with cavity. The claim does not recite any step to determining optical losses.

Regarding claim 21, the phrase "lost element" renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear what is a loss element.

Claims 2-4,6-20, and 23-27 depend from rejected claim 1, 5 and 21 thereby render these dependent claims indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of the AIPA and H.R. 2215 that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in the attached Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as revised by the AIPA and H.R. 2215, applies to all qualifying references, except when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. For such patents, the prior art date is determined under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as it existed prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)).

Claims 1-21 and 23-30 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Flanders, U.S. patent No. 6,366,592.

Regarding claim, Flanders discloses a laser apparatus, comprising:

- (a) a gain medium to emitting (422) a coherent beam along an optical path;
- (b) a reflector (412) positioned in said optical path and defining a laser cavity (See fig. 10);
- (c) a voltage sensor (118) operatively coupled to said gain medium to monitor voltage across said medium (422); and a control system (354) operatively coupled to said voltage sensor and to a loss element (410) positioned in said optical path in cavity, said control system to adjust said loss element according to said monitored voltage across said gain medium to reduce optical losses associated with cavity (See column 5, line 32-47). The apparatus comprises a plurality of dither element (714 and 716) operatively coupled to loss element (410 and 412) and loss element comprises said reflector (412) (See Fig 10).

With respect to claims 1-20, the methods for operating a laser are considered as product by process steps.

Citation of Pertinent References

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patent to Van dijk discloses Laser, U.S. Patent No. 4,847,854.

The patent to Braunlich et al. disclose Laser Power control, U.S. Patent No. 5,124,993.

The patent to Broutin et al. disclose Apparatus and Method for Forming a Laser Control Signal, and a Laser Including the Apparatus, U.S. Patent No. 6,301,280.

The patent to Chen et al. disclose High-speed Electro-Optic Modulator, U.S. Patent No.6,404,538.

Conclusion

7. When responding to the office action, Applicants are advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

Art Unit: 2828

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung VY whose telephone number is (703) 605-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 5:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul IP can be reached on (703) 308-3098. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



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Hung T. Vy
Art Unit 2828

February 6, 2003